

**Kelly Creek Neighborhood Association  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Gordon Russell Middle School  
3625 SE Powell Valley Road  
Gresham, OR 97080  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

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Meeting was called to order by KCNA President Charles Teem at 7:15 PM. Quorum was established (See attached signature roster for 19 attendees and 2 presenters.)

Board members were introduced and members were welcomed to the meeting as well as 8 members of the Powell Valley Neighborhood Association. There were no new KCNA attendees.

It was moved by Dick Schneider to accept the 1/27/10 minutes as presented. Rich Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Reports and Announcements:

- Carol Rulla reported on the progress of the Friends of Trees planting. At this time, they are scheduled to plant 28 trees. If anyone is interested in helping, let Carol know.
- Update was given to members on the East Gresham Community Information Fair scheduled for May 19, 2010. There has been a good response from exhibitors, approximately 30 to 40, half of which will be from the City of Gresham. There will be a free raffle for all adults as well as a scavenger hunt for the kids. Carol Rulla announced that volunteers were still needed, and if anyone was interested, please contact Carol. Next planning meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM.
- The League of Women Voters would be presenting discussions for candidates running for Sheriff and Metro President on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Council chambers.
- The Government Affairs Council will be meeting at 6:30 PM in the Council chambers. Adam Davis and Phil Kiesling will be in attendance.
- Update was given to members on burglaries in the area. Break ins are occurring during the day, basically the thieves are kicking in front doors. Everyone should be on the lookout in their neighborhoods for suspicious activities or vehicles. Try to get license plate number if possible.

Presentations: Coral Conant from Americorp, currently working for the City of Gresham, spoke on the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program. The purpose of the program is to increase habitat, connect with the habitat and improve the stormwater infiltration. She further pointed out the advantages of bringing wildlife into your yard. To join the program, contact Coral by email at [coral.conant@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:coral.conant@greshamoregon.gov) or by telephone at (503) 618-2608. When you contact her, a visit will be scheduled and you will receive a free consultation. After creating your habitat, it will be certified by the program.

Jamie Stamberger from the City of Gresham gave a presentation on rain gardens and the watershed program. She explained that a rain garden is actually an inverted flower bed and it soaks up water when your roof downspouts are disconnected. By disconnecting your

downspouts and going to a rain garden, you can keep 50,000 gallons of water from running off your lot and into the storm drains. It is good for the environment. Jamie can be contacted through email at [www.greshamoregon.gov/watershed](mailto:www.greshamoregon.gov/watershed). There are \$100 certificates available to the first 10 people installing rain gardens to help offset the cost. There will also be a free workshop on rain gardens on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Abbate from the City of Gresham gave a presentation on the status and future of parks in Gresham. Mr. Abbate is the Urban Design and Planning Director. He presented the following facts:

- The City of Gresham has put a three year effort into looking at the parks system in our city.
- Gresham currently has 1.3 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents. The National Parks and Recreation Association's standard is 10 acres per 1,000 residents.
- All recreation programs in Gresham have been phased out due to lack of money. The last major park built in Gresham was Red Sunset Park, which was built over twenty years ago.
- Funding base is currently \$3.61 per \$1,000 on property taxes which ranks Gresham 19<sup>th</sup> out of 20 major cities. Eugene is #1 with a funding base of \$7.01 per \$1,000, Portland is \$6.92 per \$1,000, and the lowest is Fairview at \$3.49 per \$1,000.
- To improve the park system would cost about 8.5 million a year; they now spend approximately 2.8 million. Ideas to raise funds include an operating levy, capital bonds, park utility fee or a park district levy.

A spirited discussion ensued on how the parks got into the condition they are in, how to fund the parks program and ideas to expand the "adopt a park" program to develop as well as maintain parks. Any additional questions, concerns or input can be directed to either Mike Abbate, Urban Design & Planning Director, at [mike.abbate@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:mike.abbate@greshamoregon.gov), or by telephone at (503) 618-2378, or Robin Franzen Parker, Parks Communications Specialist at [robin.franzen\\_parker@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:robin.franzen_parker@greshamoregon.gov) or by telephone at (503) 618-2150.

Members enjoyed informal time to discuss their concerns with Ms. Conant, Ms. Stamberger, Mr. Abbate and Ms. Franzen Parker. Shannon Chisom provided refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathi Schneider, KNCA Secretary